**Autumn Newsletter 2019-20**

**Warkworth Class**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you enjoyed the summer break, it’s lovely to see the students after the holidays and we are all looking forward to engaging in this terms topic and seeing the progress we make over the new term.

Our class team is Michelle Waugh and Megan Lockey as class teachers who will work together collaboratively to ensure consistency for students throughout the week. Our therapists remain as Ashleigh Richardson our Speech and Language Therapist and Shauna Garrity our Occupational Therapist.

We are very excited about this terms topic ‘Festivals around the world’ and will be focusing on Asia and Europe. Within numeracy students will work on time and measurement using Asian and European monuments as a stimulus. Students will develop skills in measuring using standard and non-standard units and comparing and ordering objects. In other sessions activities will link with our topic theme, following and making traditional recipes, exploring a range of art forms and using these to produce our own pieces of work from countries within each continent - as well as engaging in activities from festivals of light around the world. Science will focus on healthy eating and digestion, developing skills in observing and recording by carrying out a range of practical experiments and investigations.

We will continue with weekly visits to the supermarket to enable students to generalise skills across settings and apply within functional contexts. As part of our community access we will be visiting different venues throughout the local area such as country parks and woodland walks. During these visits we will be identifying key features of the environment and recording our findings using images and symbols as well as providing opportunities to develop social interaction with peers with visits to parks and the Tim Lamb centre.

In therapy sessions this term we will continue to develop each pupil’s communication skills, social skills and emotional regulation in a variety of motivating group sessions and individual 1:1 sessions throughout the week. This will include group sensory story and the use of communication ‘busy boxes’ targeting individual skills and individual approaches including SmILE programme. Students will focus on social communication and interaction skills through directed play, developing their ability to share activities, take turns and interact appropriately. Our occupational therapist will also lead a weekly motor skills session to develop fine motor skills and bilateral coordination with students taking part in a range of motivating tasks to target individual needs. 1:1 occupational and speech and language therapy sessions will focus on each pupil’s individual targets and students will also engage in any relevant sensory programmes to enable self-regulation.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us on 0191 2815821 or on the below emails

Best wishes, Michelle, Megan and the Warkworth class team

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